

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1038

By Briggs

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the Knoxville Central High School football team upon winning the TSSAA Class 5A State Championship.

WHEREAS, we are pleased to specially honor and commend those successful high school teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors for this State; and

WHEREAS, Knoxville Central High School achieved an extraordinary level of success during the 2019 football season, which culminated in winning the State Championship in the TSSAA Class 5A Division, the State's highest level of high school football competition; and

WHEREAS, Knoxville Central High School won the championship game in convincing fashion, beating Summit High School by a score of 30-7 and claiming a second consecutive state championship for the Knoxville Central High School Bobcats football team; and

WHEREAS, Central High School laid the foundation for its championship through years of hard work, preparation, and the determination that has been instilled in the program by its coaching staff, which attributes led to the Bobcats' exceptional 13-2 record; and

WHEREAS, Dakota Fawver, the team's quarterback and championship game MVP, contributed 216 passing yards and two touchdowns to lead the team to victory, bringing him to an impressive 2,879 passing yards, 413 rushing yards, thirty passing touchdowns, and three rushing touchdowns for the season; and

WHEREAS, the Bobcats' stellar offense was fueled by the play of running back Jason Merritts and wide receivers Braden Gaston and Isaiah Osborne; during the 2019 season, Mr. Merritts finished with 1,033 rushing yards and twelve rushing touchdowns; Mr. Gaston finished

with 686 receiving yards and thirteen receiving touchdowns; and Mr. Osborne finished with 677 receiving yards and eight receiving touchdowns; and

WHEREAS, the team's formidable defense was anchored by the dominant play of linebacker Kalib Fortner, defensive end Eunique Valentine, and safety Jaidin Horton; Mr. Fortner finished the season with 120 tackles and ten sacks; Mr. Valentine finished with 102 tackles and ten sacks; and Mr. Horton finished with five interceptions and sixty-five tackles; and

WHEREAS, the Bobcats owe their sustained success to head coach Bryson Rosser, who has led the team to six playoff appearances in his six seasons at Knoxville Central High School; and

WHEREAS, the football players of Knoxville Central High School epitomize all that is good in today's student athlete, as they achieved the highest level of success on the field while showing the highest degree of character and service off the field; they inspired the school's student body and united the entire Fountain City community during their triumphant run through the 2019 season; and

WHEREAS, it is our distinct privilege to recognize, honor, and congratulate the Knoxville Central High School Bobcats team and coaching staff for their outstanding and stellar season in capturing the TSSAA Class 5A State Championship; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor, acknowledge, and congratulate the players, coaching staff, and fans of the Knoxville Central High School football team upon their impressive season, which culminated in the school's second consecutive TSSAA Class 5A State Championship. We wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.